



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

The following are the summary minutes of the **Senior Programs Advisory Board** meeting held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Sage Café Senior Center, located at 6121 Reynolds Drive Las Cruces, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative
Vice-Chair Belinda Soto, Henry Benavidez Recreation Center Representative
Secretary Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large
Mona Bedale, District 2 Representative
Yolanda Knodle, District 4 Representative
Kirk Loudon, District 6 Representative
Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught, Frank O'Brien Papen Center Representative
David Hernandez, Eastside Center Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Gaskell, District 3 Representative
Larry Altamirano, Sage Café Senior Center Representative

GUESTS PRESENT:

Carol Brey, Quality of Life Director
Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Deputy Director
Chris Behrens, Recreation Facility Manager
Toni Flores, Recording Secretary

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Gabriel Montalvo called the meeting to order.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Roll call was taken and a quorum was ascertained.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Belinda Soto.
4. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** The Board observed a moment of silence.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion by Judy Chavarria, seconded by Vice-Chair Belinda Soto. Motion passed.
6. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Board Members had no conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.
7. **INTRODUCTIONS:** None.
8. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

1 **9. ACTION ITEMS:**
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3 **9.1. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 8, 2024 SENIOR PROGRAMS ADVISORY**
4 **BOARD MEETING MINUTES:** Motion by Judy Chavarria, second by
5 Yolanda Knodle. Motion passed.
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7 **10. TRAINING:**
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9 **10.1. OLDER AMERICANS ACT TRAINING - SONIA SALDANA:**
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11 Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Deputy Director, gave a presentation
12 about the Older Americans Act. She described the objectives and structure
13 of the Act. This is aimed at providing the best possible housing, quality of
14 life, employment, referrals to Adult Protective Services where needed, and
15 healthcare for older Americans. Funding is categorized under titles in the
16 Act. Las Cruces Senior Programs receives monies under Title III after being
17 filtered through the State and the State matches those funds. The majority
18 of time and resources are spent on low-income seniors. Funding is received
19 based on the cost of services that are currently provided. Requests for
20 increased funding are included in the budget each year. The Advisory
21 Board exists to provide Senior Programs with information on what services
22 are needed and where. Dona Ana County provides services for seniors
23 similar to Senior Programs but for people who live outside the city limits.
24 Most of their services have a waiting list. The Senior Programs have many
25 safety, compliance, and monitoring activities they are required to follow.
26 Gambling and fundraising are not allowed. The public hearing for the City
27 budget for FY25 will be held at the April 22, 2024 City Council work session.
28 The grievance process and the rights of consumers are posted at each of
29 the centers. HIPAA applies to all programs. There is a process to go
30 through to be allowed to do political campaigning at the centers. Grants
31 specify what can be bought with grant funding. All employees do time
32 studies twice a year to help determine what budget requests should be. All
33 grant funding is tracked and reported. Staff must be available in buildings
34 during working hours for safety considerations. Grandparents qualify for
35 grandparent raising grandchild services at 55 years of age. All other grant-
36 funded services are available to those 60 years of age and up. S. Saldana
37 was thanked for the presentation.
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39 **11. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
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41 A fitness instructor has been hired and class offerings include dancercise
42 and chair-assisted recreational activities on Monday, Wednesday, and
43 Friday mornings at the Papen Center starting at the end of the month. The
44 hiring process is being finalized for the new Spanish instructor. Staff also
45 hopes to offer a fall prevention course soon. The candle making class will

1 be held at the East Side Center on Mondays. Registration will be done at
2 the Munson Center starting two weeks before the first day of class. Staff is
3 hoping that the budget requests will all be approved so another art class
4 can be added, as well as additional classes and activities. Staff has been
5 considering hosting local trips for seniors. This just an idea; however, the
6 problems include liability, funding, staff, and other issues.

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8 **11.1. SENIOR PROGRAMS DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

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10 **12. UPDATES:**

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12 **11.1. CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS:**

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14 The senior centers are seeing an increase in participants. There will be a
15 volunteer appreciation meal in April for members of the Volunteer Network.
16 A suggestion was made to reduce the number of times per year the Board
17 meets. The minimum number of meetings required is four times a year.
18 There was a consensus of the Board Members to table the discussion until
19 the next Board meeting. Vice Chair B. Medina was concerned that Charles
20 Tucker, Inspector General, does not notify clients when he is unable to
21 attend a scheduled meeting or is returning phone calls. Staff will follow up
22 with this concern. Seniors attending the lunches are complaining that they
23 do not get enough food. Kitchen staff report that they are measuring the
24 food exactly according to the nutritional plans. Roger Bishop, Nutrition
25 Program Manager, and Patricia Bertoldo, Kitchen Supervisor, will be
26 spending time in the kitchens to check on the procedures. The half-portions
27 are still available on request at the centers and the signs need to be placed
28 where people can see them.

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30 Members asked to invite an officer to come to a meeting and hear their
31 complaints about distracted driving and stripping problems on the roads. It
32 was suggested a presentation be held on brain health. Board Members
33 expressed interest. Staff will follow up with the recommendation.

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35 **13. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Yolanda Knodle, second by Belinda Soto.
36 Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Judy Chavarria, Secretary